

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
W	579



Location Lexington
Address Moved to 50 Kendall Rd
29 Allen Street
Historic Name Allen-Swenson Farmhouse

Use: Present residential
Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1750

Source stylistic analysis

Style Georgian
Second Period Vernacular

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings shed

Major alterations (with dates) cell to
the rear (c. 1850)

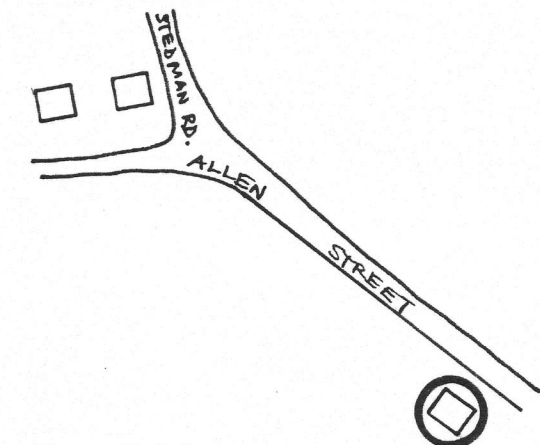
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 33973 ft.²

Setting Adjacent to a portion of the
original road to Waltham, now little used
and surrounded by land retaining rural
appearance.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady, Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This is one of half-a-dozen Second Period Vernacular houses which survive in Lexington. The setting of this house preserves something of its rural character as well.

The original portion of the house is five bays wide and one room deep. The house exhibits the roof profile and window placement and size similar to those found in the other Second Period Vernacular houses in Lexington. Window sash is a replacement of the original. Exterior finishes are plain. The

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

According to an antiquarian account, this house was first owned by Joseph Smith (1743-1805), a son of the Hezekiah Smith who had originally owned the farm at 56 Allen Street and a cousin of the Josiah Smith of the house now at 26 Blossom Street and Abraham Smith, later of the house at 92 Blossomcrest (see forms for these houses). Joseph Smith's age and the date of his first marriage (1765) suggest that this house may have been constructed somewhat later than the c. 1750 proposed on the basis of stylistic analysis (see Architectural Significance section of this form); perhaps the house was built by an earlier owner. In any case, Joseph Smith was very active in military and political affairs: he was one of the Minute Men on the Lexington green on April 19, 1775, and participated in later Revolutionary campaigns; he was also a selectman for four years between 1785 and 1793 and an assessor from 1796 to 1798 and in 1804. A later account described him as a masterful presiding officer at political conventions (Smith 1891:116).

After Joseph Smith's death in 1805, the farm was owned by his son Joseph (1767-1813), who in turn sold it to Marshall Wellington (1789-1866), a brother of "Captain David" Wellington of the Wellington homestead at 130 Pleasant Street (see form). In 1838 Wellington sold the farm to Galen Allen (1802-1864), a selectman for three years from 1847 to 1851, and for many years the property was known as the Allen farm. In 1876 the farm was owned by a G. Bullock, presumably a relative of the Bullocks in the houses at 673 and 643 Waltham

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 11, 638, 737. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End," 1891. Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 115-116. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Historical Society, 1900.

1876 map

1889 map

1898 map

1906 map

1887 Directory

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 579
Property Name: 29 Allen Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

remains of panelled pilasters are present at the south entrance. The chimney of the south (original) portion has been removed and changes made to the stairs. However, mid-eighteenth century features remain in several of the rooms of this part of the house. In the right hand downstairs room, there is a panelled chimney breast with one very wide overmantel panel. An offset in the cornice molding defines the chimney breast. The north wall of this room retains horizontal feather-edged panelling (now covered with wallpaper) up to the level of the chair rail. The summer beams in all the southernmost rooms examined were unboxed and displayed a plain narrow chamfer. There is raised-field panelling on the fireplace wall of the right hand chamber.

The foundation of the central chimney, which remains in the basement, is two brick piers with timbers lain across the tops. There is brick nogging in the north wall, and probably in the other walls of the original portion.

The ell addition appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century. A fine cast-iron cook stove set in the chimney of the ell has a patent date of 1859. Perhaps the addition was built shortly after that.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Street (see 673 Waltham Street form), and by 1889 by David W. Richards, another longer term owner. In 1906 the owner was Willard C. Schuyler; later in the twentieth century the farm was acquired by the Swenson family and is still sometimes known as the Swenson farm.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom